

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18-23 and 25-30 are allowable, subject to being rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 10, 18 and 25 have therefore been cancelled, and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claims 1, 9, 17 and 24, respectively.

New Claim 31 has been introduced. Claim 31 recites means for minimizing an effect of a change in a width of the gap between the charger and the charged body on the surface charge of the charged body. Basis for this is found at page 11, lines 4-7. None of the cited references describes minimizing the effect of variations in the gap between the charger and the image carrier.

The title of the invention has been revised as required. Additionally, the specification has been amended to refer to element "10" in Figure 1.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and therefore solicits an early Notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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